
W I T H E R N S E A U R B A N D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

H E A L T H A N D S A N I T A R Y A D M I N I S T R A T I O N

A N N U A L R E P O R T

1 9 5 5

Municipal Buildings,
243, Queen Street,
Withernsea,
East Yorkshire.

F. R. Cripps, M.D., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.



Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of the Withernsea Urban District for 1955.

Vital Statistics.

The total population of Withernsea, including members of the armed forces, is estimated by the Registrar General to be 4,990; an increase of 30 above the estimate for 1954. This increase is especially welcome when one considers the increasing cost of travel to Hull where many residents find employment. Prospective residents too, have to weigh this factor when considering the total cost of living, as compared with other districts. The total "cost of living" however should be considered in its wider aspect, and include healthy living, such as freedom from smog, pure bracing air free from dust and soot, a really accessible beach, and a comparatively low rainfall. These health giving features are Withernsea's shop window, and as such must be kept in the foreground, both of a residential area and a holiday resort; and the sands, the children's paradise, should be kept meticulously clean.

Birth Rate.

There were 64 live births, 33 males and 31 females, registered; of these one male was illegitimate, giving an illegitimate rate of 1.6 per cent of the total live births. Last year 69 children were born, of whom 6 were illegitimate, a rate of over 8% compared with County rate of 3.8%.

In addition to the 64 live births, there were 3 still-births, one male and two female, all legitimate. The Birth Rate is 12.82 per 1,000 population. Last year (1954) it was 13.9, and in 1953 it was 16.0. The rate for the Urban Districts in the whole County was 14 in 1954.

When the Birth Rate is corrected by the Area Comparability Factor of 1.1, a figure which makes allowance for the age groups which predominate in the area, as disclosed by the Census, the figure is raised to 14.10. This means that a large percentage of the population is in the higher age groups, where children are fewer.

Deaths and Death Rate.

During 1955, 92 residents died; 28 more than the number of births, another indication of the higher than average age groups present in the population; of these 36 were males and 56 females, and includes residents who happened to die away from home, i.e. in hospital, etc. Of the males, 27 died in the first three quarters of the year and 9 in the last quarter, no seasonal influence here! Of the women, 37 died in the first three quaters of the year and 19 in the fourth quarter.

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Total
Male Deaths	11	6	10	9	36
Female Deaths	12	14	9	19	56

Of the males 75% of all deaths occurred in people aged 65 and over, and 36% in people aged 75 and over, so that more than one in three lived over 75 years. Of the females 80% of all deaths occurred in people aged 65 and over, and 50% in people aged 75 and over, so that every other women lived to be 75 and over in 1955.

The Death Rate is 18.4 per 1,000 population, an increase of 5.3 per 1,000 over last year's death rate and of 1.4 per 1,000 over the rate for 1953. When this high figure of 18.4 is adjusted by the Area Comparability Factor of 0.77, it comes down to 14.16 per 1,000, which is what the Death Rate would have been if there had not been a greater proportion of older retired people in Withernsea than is generally throughout the Country.

Of the total deaths 25% were due to Heart and Circulatory Disease, Coronary Thrombosis and Angina, which seems to be increasing with higher consumption of fatty foods, ? increasing prosperity, causing 9 deaths, as also did Valvular Disease of the Heart. Hypertension and other diseases of the circulation caused 5 deaths. Cerebral Haemorrhage caused 20 deaths, chiefly females, 15 to 5 males; and Cancer came third with a total of 15, distributed as follows:- Stomach 1, Lungs 3, Breast 3, Uterus 2, Others 6. Pneumonia and Bronchitis caused 5 deaths, 3 and 2 respectively. Thus well over half of all deaths were due to the above first three groups of disease, Heart, Cerebral Haemorrhage and Cancer in that order.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth or Abortion during the year.

Infectious Diseases.

Excluding Tuberculosis, there were no deaths from infectious disease, or other notifiable disease.

Infant Mortality.

A. Still-births. There were 3 still-births in addition to the 64 live births, and as noted previously all were legitimate births.

The still-birth rate is 44.8 per 1,000 total births, live and still, and 0.6 per 1,000 population, compared with 0.4 per 1,000 population last year.

B. Deaths of Infants under one year of age. Three infants, 2 male and 1 female, died during their first year. All were legitimate, and all died during their first four weeks of life .

This gives an Infant Mortality Rate of 47 per 1000 live births. The rate last year was 30. Although the mortality rate is higher this year it is somewhat consoling to know that none of these three infants died from an infective condition like Broncho Pnaemonia or Gastro Enteritis or Whooping Cough or from Premature Birth or birth injuries. - Two died in hospital from Haemolytic Anaemia Rhenous Factor, i.e. incompatibility of the parents blood, an uncommon condition not yet fully understood, and the other from a rare maternal abnormality.

The following table shows the figures for the various causes of death for 1955 and a comparison with 1954 and 1953:-

Causes of Death	Number of Deaths.			Total	
	Male	Female	Total	1954	1953
Tuberculosis, Respiratory.	1	-	1	1	1
Tuberculosis, Other Forms.	-	-	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease.	-	-	-	-	-
Other Infectious Disease.	-	-	-	1	1
Cancer, Stomach.	1	-	1	-	4
Cancer, Lungs.	2	1	3	4	2
Cancer, Breast.	-	3	3	-	1
Cancer, Uterus.	-	2	2	-	1
Cancer, Others.	4	2	6	4	7
Diseases of the Blood.	-	-	-	-	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage.	5	15	20	9	13
Heart Disease (13 & 20)	6	12	18	11	12
Hypertension (19)	-	1	1		
Circulatory Disease.	2	2	4	6	6
Pneumonia.	3	-	3	1	6
Bronchitis.	1	1	2	1	7
Disease of Kidney.	-	1	1	1	1
Disease of Prostrate.	-	-	-	1	2
Other Diseases.	11	12	23	26	13
Motor Accidents.	-	-	-	-	1
Other Accidents.	-	3	3	-	4

Comparison of the causes of death with other years shows an increase in deaths from Cancer, chiefly of the Breast and Uterus. Deaths from Cancer of the Lungs is about the same as the two previous years. Cerebral Haemorrhage showed a marked increase, especially among women, the number of deaths being double the average for the two preceding years. Deaths from heart disease also increased, again mostly among women.

It is interesting to note the age groups in which the chief causes of death occurred -

Cancer. There were no cases of cancer in the age groups 0 - 45. In the group 45 - 64 there were 8 cases and in the group 65 - 74 five cases. Two cases occurred over 75, both males.

In the diseases of the Heart and circulation group, out of 39 deaths only four were under 65, as indeed one would expect.

Deaths from Pneumonia and Bronchitis were again few in number and in the age group 65 and over..

There were 3 deaths from domestic accidents, resulting in fracture of the leg, all over 75 years.

Deaths notified as due to Senility numbered 22 and of these 17 were 80 years and over.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Disease.

The following is a summary of the Notifications of Infectious Disease received during the year:-

Disease	Jan. - Mch		Apr.- June		July - Sept		Oct.- Dec		Total.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	1955	1954
Measles.	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	5	99
Whooping Cough.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Scarlet Fever.	1	1	2	1	1	-	-	-	6	3
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ac. Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tuberculosis, Lungs.	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	5
Tuberculosis, Others.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typhoid. (Enteric).	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning-Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5

+Three deaths registered.

Measles. 1955 was almost a year free from Measles, only five cases all under 6 years.

Whooping Cough. No notifications were received.

Scarlet Fever. 6 cases were notified, all in the first seven months of the year. Three cases were notified in the previous year. The cases were mild with no complications.

Diphtheria. No cases have been notified for many years, but this is not to say we should now rest on our oars and drift. Diphtheria is still deadly in the unimmunised child and will return if immunisation is not kept at a high level.

Tuberculosis. Four new cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified as compared with five cases last year. Of these one was a male in the age group 45-55 and three female in the age group 15-25.

No cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis is now available to susceptible children between the ages of 13 and 14.

One death from the disease occurred during the year, the same as the previous year.

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was 0.2 per 1,000 population; and a little over 1% of the total number of deaths.

The rate for the East Riding was 0.15 per 1,000 population in 1954.

The following table summarises the Deaths and Notifications in the Age Groups:-

AGE GROUPS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY		PULMONARY		NON-PULMONARY	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 or over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-

The numbers remaining on the Register of Cases in the Urban District at the end of 1955 was:-

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
Males.	18	1
Females.	22	4

Food Poisoning.

No cases were notified during the year.



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Vaccination and Immunisation against Diphtheria.

(a) Number of persons vaccinated or re-vaccinated during the year 1955.

Age at Date of Vaccination	Under 1	1 year	2 to 4	5 to 14	15 or over	Totals
Number Vaccinated.	32	1	2	3	5	43
Number re-vaccinated.	-	-	-	-	2	2

(b) Number of children at 31st December, 1955, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date, i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1941. (Number immunised whether Primary or Booster):-

Age at 31/12/55 i.e. Born in Year	Under 1. 1955	1 1954	2 1953	3 1952	4 1951	5-9 1946-1950	10-15 1941-1945	TOTAL under 15.
1951 - 1955	4	30	48	52	52	295	134	615
1941 - 1950	-	-	-	-	-	107	214	321
Totals	4	30	48	52	52	402	348	936

(c) Number of children immunised during the year ending 31-12-55.
(Figures also included in (b) above).

Under 5.	5 to 14.	Total	Boosters.
47	22	69	210

The estimated mid-1955 population in the age group 0 - 14 years, for the Urban District of Withernsea, is 1109.

Water Supply.

The water supply is obtained under Contract from the Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation, the contract dating from February, 1916.

The supply is piped under pressure to a tower at Rimswell, 2½ miles west of Withernsea, and is then distributed by gravitation. The supply has been satisfactory in quality and quantity and there have been no restrictions on the use of hosepipes and the use of mains water for washing cars.

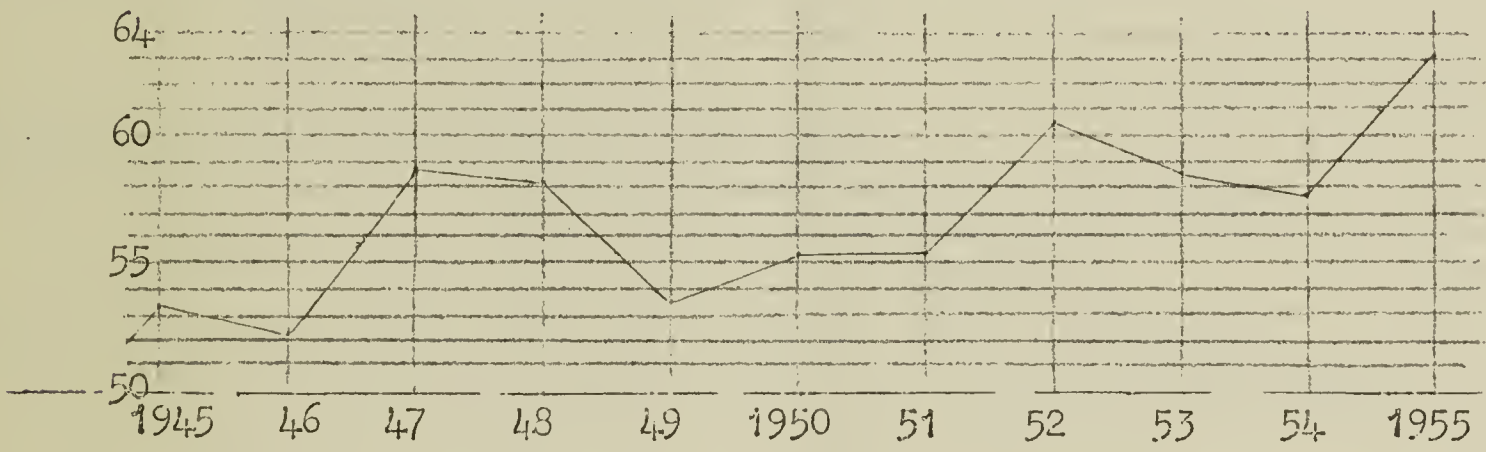
A copy of the Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis of the water is appended hereto.

Consumption of Water.

The total consumption of water during the year was 63,190,000 gallons, an INCREASE of 5,210,000 gallons, (approx. 9%), as compared with the consumption of 57,980,000 gallons during the year 1954.

Metered supplies.	8,004,700	gallons
Domestic consumption.	55,185,300	:
TOTAL	63,190,000	:
=====		
Gross Daily Consumption	173,123	gallons.
Domestic Daily Consumption. . .	151,193	:
Domestic Consumption, per head, per day, based on a population of 4,990.	30.3	gallons.

The following graph shows the annual consumption of water, in millions of gallons, for all purposes during the past eleven years :-



Water Supply - - Annual Consumption
1945 to 1955.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The area is drained on the combined system and the sewage is discharged into the sea without treatment, the point of discharge being opposite the central promenade, fouling of the beaches with sewage takes place. The sewerage system is overloaded and the Council's Consulting Engineers have stated that it is inadvisable to increase the load until the new scheme of sewerage and settlement tanks are approved and constructed.

All domestic premises in the area are provided with waterclosets, the drains of which are connected to the public sewers with the exception of five low lying cottages which cannot be so connected. Four of the latter are provided with chemical closets and one has a watercloset which drains to a cesspit.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse and Night Soil.

Nightsoil from approximately 304 privies at the various holiday caravan camps in the area is collected weekly with a covered metal bodied motor vehicle and disposed of on farms outside the district.

A similar vehicle is employed for the weekly collection of domestic and trade refuse which is dealt with at the Incinerator Station. 1,314 loads (approx: 1971 tons) of house refuse and 156 loads (approx: 156 tons) of trade refuse were collected.

The agreement entered into with a local scrap metal, etc., merchant whereby he undertook to sort the refuse delivered to the Incinerator Station and retain and dispose of the salvaged materials has continued to operate satisfactorily.

The following clinker and ashes were sold, mainly to farmers in the surrounding area :-
Clinker..... 94 cu. yds..... £9 : 8s : 0d.
Ashes..... 219 cu. yds..... £16 : 8s : 6d.

Rodent Control

A total of 87 inspections and reinspections of dwellinghouses, business premises and agricultural premises have been made and 40 treatments carried out where infestations of rats were found. A number of treatments for the clearance of mice have also been carried out.

The public sewers have been test baited on two occasions and poison baiting was carried out in the districts where the presence of rats was ascertained. There were no serious infestations.

Factories

The following factories are on the register :-

Joiners	4
Letter Press and Printing	1
Sweets and Ice Cream Manufacture	1
Coal Gas Manufacture	1
Garages and Motor Repairs	4
Light General Engineering	2
Bakeries	4
Scrap Metal Baling	1
Plumbers and Electricians	4
TOTAL	<u>22</u>

Housing

Number of houses erected in 1955 :-

By Council Nil.
By Private Enterprise 3

Inspection of Dwellinghouses during the year

- (1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 32
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purposes 47
- (2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 19
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 34
- (3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 4
- (4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation 15

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 8

Action under Statutory Powers during the year

- (a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs Nil
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices
 - (a) By Owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil
- (b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.
 - (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied Nil
 - (2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
 - (a) By Owners Nil
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil
- (c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.
 - (1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil
 - (2) Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made. Nil
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined. Nil

Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

- (a)(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year Nil
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein. Nil
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein Nil
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year . Nil
- (c)(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year . . . Nil
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases. Nil
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil

Ministry of Health Requisitioned Houses

Maintenance repairs to Ministry of Health Requisitioned Houses (ex Military) have been carried out. There were 12 requisitioned houses at 1st January, 1955 and these were all released by 30th September, 1955.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

One "Certificate of Disrepair" was issued and was subsequently revoked after defects were remedied by the Owner.

Holiday Caravan Camps.

There are six camping sites in the area for which licences to accommodate a total of 254 caravans are in force. The sites are licenced annually.

Two sites containing 29 holiday caravans, for which licences under the provisions of section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936 have not been issued, have been receiving the consideration of the County Planning Authority, under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and action for the removal of the caravans is pending.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Routine supervision of the preparation of retail food products, chiefly butchers premises, fried fish and chip shops, grocery and confectionery shops, was carried out.

9 Supplementary Licences have been issued under the provisions of the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, as follows :-

- 3 in respect of the Special Designation "PASTEURISED",
- 4 in respect of the Special Designation "STERILISED" and
- 2 in respect of the Special Designation "TUBERCULIN TESTED".

There are 27 Purveyors of Milk on the Register.

The following foods, found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption, were voluntarily destroyed :-

- 10 lbs. Corned Beef.
- 40 lbs. Skinless Defatted Ham.
- 12 lbs. 7 ozs. Cooked Ham.
- 11 lbs. 5 ozs. Cooked Boneless Ham.
- 12 ozs. Minced Beef Loaf.
- 2 lbs. Peeled Tomatoes.
- 1 lb. Baked Beans.
- 3½ ozs. Dressed Crab.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, Section 57 (Licencing of Slaughterhouses).

There is one licenced slaughterhouse in the urban district which is used by two Withernsea butchers for regular slaughtering on three evenings each week and some casual slaughtering. The premises are well administered.

During the year 140 cattle, 562 sheep, 1 calf and 282 pigs have been slaughtered and about 98% inspections have been effected.

The remaining butchers in the town, six in number, obtain their supplies of meat from outside sources.

Slaughterhouse Licences.

Five "Licences to Slaughter or stun animals" were issued.

Summary - 1955.

	1955			1954	1953
	Males	Females	Total		
Births					
Legitimate	32	31	63	63	78
Illegitimate	1	-	1	6	3
Totals	33	31	64	69	81
Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population			12.82	13.9	16.43
Still-Births					
Legitimate	1	2	3	2	4
Illegitimate.	-	-	-	-	-
Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population			0.6	0.4	0.8
Still-Birth Rate per 1,000 Total Births.			44.8	28.0	
Deaths	36	56	92	65	84
Death Rate per 1000 Civilian Population			18.4	13.1	17.04
Infant Mortality					
Legitimate	2	1	3	2	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate.					
Per 1,000 Live Births			47	30	Nil
Per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births			47.3	32	Nil
Per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births			Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Measles.			Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough			Nil	Nil	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea, Enteritis.			Nil	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality					
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion.			Nil	Nil	Nil

Code No.	Disease.	No.	DEATH RATE per 1,000 population.		% of total Deaths (92)
			1955	1954	
1	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	1	0.2	0.2	1.2
2	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	0	0.0	0.0	Nil
4/8	Notifiable Diseases excluding Tuberculosis & Pneumonia	0	0.0	0.0	Nil
18/20	Heart Disease excluding Circulatory Disease.	19	3.8	2.2	20.7
21	Other Circulatory Disease.	4	0.8		4.35
24/25	Respiratory Disease excluding Pneumonia	2	0.4	{ 0.6	2.2
23	Pneumonia	3	0.6		3.26
10/14	Cancer	15	3.0	1.61	16.3
17	Cerebral Haemorrhage	20	4.0		21.7
	All others.	28			30.3
	Total	92			100.00

General Statistics.

Average height above Sea Level..	15 feet.
Area of Urban District..	882 acres.
Population, Mid-1955. - Estimated	4990
Increase	30
Houses, Number occupied, end of 1955	1867
Rateable Value - 31st December, 1955	£.31,741
Profit of Penny Rate	£. 126

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

Francis R. Cripps.

Medical Officer of Health.

COPY OF PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES' REPORT
ON SAMPLE OF WATER TAKEN FROM
-----DUNSWELL ON 3rd APRIL, 1956.-----

Physical Examination.

Colour, in 2 ft. column,	Colourless.
Appearance,	Clear: practically no suspended matter.
Taste,	Normal.
Smell,	None.

General Chemical Examination.

Reaction, pH,	7.3
	<u>Parts per Million</u>
Free Carbon Dioxide, as CO ₂ ,	8.0
Ammoniacal Nitrogen, as N,	none
Albuminoid Nitrogen, as N,	none
Nitrous Nitrogen, as N,	none
Nitric Nitrogen, as N,	5.60
Hardness (Soap Test)	
as CaCO ₃ ,	272
Temporary,	183
Permanent	89
Permanganate figure,	
(4 hrs 80°F.) as O,	0.167
Alkalinity, as CaCO ₃ ,	224
Total Solids (at 180°C.)	430
Chlorides, expressed as chlorine,	29
Free Chlorine,	0.12
Lead, etc.,	none

Bacteriological Data.

Number of Colonies growing on <u>Nutrient Agar</u> at 21°C. per 1 ml. of the water (3 days),	1
Number of Colonies growing on <u>Nutrient Agar</u> at 37°C. per 1 ml. of the water (2 days),	1
<u>Presumptive Bac.Coli</u> Test (2 days)	
Probable No. Bac.Coli in 100 mls. of the water,	0

Signed.	D. J. T. Bagnall.
	Public Analyst and Corporation Bacteriologist.

